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EDITORIALS

NEWS FROM DR. VICTOR VON BOROSINI.

The editorial staff of this Journal for several months has been painfully conscious that a strong portion of its force is away from the desk. Dr. Victor von Borosini, who for several years has been an especially active and energetic associate editor and contributor, went to Europe early in the past summer, and, at the outbreak of the European war, entered the Austrian army. From October 25 to December 4 he had not been heard from and his friends were consequently filled with anxiety. News has reached us, however, that he is safe, but that he is a prisoner of war. This is occasion for mixed feelings on our part. At the same time that we congratulate Dr. von Borosini and his anxious family on his personal safety, we deeply sympathize with him in the enforced idleness and hardships of a prison camp. He will rob a portion of the days of their tedium by reviewing books and journals for our pages.

Those who may wish to communicate with him should send mail in care of Director of Bureau of Prisoners of War, 49 Wellington St., London, W. C. From that office mail will be forwarded to the prison camp near Tipperary, Ireland. ROBERT H. GAULT.

"SOCIAL HYGIENE."

The first number of "Social Hygiene" appeared in December. This issue contains 164 pages. The journal is published quarterly by The American Social Hygiene Association, Inc., and is under the editorial care of James Bronson Reynolds Esq., general counsel of the American Social Hygiene Association and Dr. William F. Snow of New York City. The workmanship on this first number justifies the term "artistic," and the titles and names of contributors promise good things. The table of contents follows:

The American Social Hygiene Association.....Charles W. Eliot
The Fight for a Red Light Abatement Law.....Franklin Hichborn
Can the Law Protect Matrimony from Disease?.....

.....Edward L. Keyer, Jr.
The Regulation of Prostitution in Europe.....Abraham Flexner
Education and the Social Hygiene Movement.....G. Stanley Hall
Play Leadership in Sex Education.....Clark W. Hetherington
The Bionomics of War.....Vernon L. Kellogg
Diagnosis and Advice in Venereal Diseases.....

.....B. S. Barringer, Archibald McNeil

PREVENTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRIMINALS

- The Interest of Life Insurance Companies in Social Hygiene...
.....Lee K. Frankel
The Relation of Education in Sex to Race Betterment.....
.....Winfield S. Hall
Report of the Committee on Prostitution, of the National Conference of Charities and Correction.....Maude E. Miner
In addition to the above contributed articles there are notes and reviews of books and periodicals.
Correspondence for the new journal should be addressed to
105 W. 40th St., New York City. ROBERT H. GAULT.
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PREVENTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRIMINALS.

There is much in our methods of dealing with criminals to suggest an old woman with a broom sweeping back the rising tide of the ocean. In the Chicago House of Correction there are approximately 1,200 prisoners who have been committed to that institution, or to others of its kind, four or more times. During the year 1913 there were 2,171 different repeaters in that institution who had been there four or more times before.

In his review of the statistics of recidivism in Germany Gustav Aschaffenburg says: "Probably with the first, certainly with the third or fourth conviction, the hope is destroyed of ever reclaiming the criminal from his unfortunate career; finally they (statistics) teach that the fall into the abyss usually takes place in a very short time, and that our penal system is unable to check the growing depravity." (See *Crime and its Repression*, p. 223.) Dr. Paul Bowers' study of 100 recidivists who had served four or more terms of commitment in the Michigan City, Indiana, prison, would indicate that they were all in very bad mental and physical condition. (See this *Journal*, Vol. V, No. 3.) The Chicago Council Committee on Crime is in possession of similar data relating to juvenile and adult delinquents in Chicago.

There is sufficient data at hand to establish the conviction that oft-repeated offenders are on the whole equipped with such unstable organizations that they cannot react normally to the conditions of everyday life that place upon us all the heavy burden of competition for a livelihood—and more. If this is the case the corollary seems to be obvious that we are not preventing crime by merely locking such repeaters up and letting them out again. They require prolonged attention and this seems to suggest giving